

For Six Month Period Ending 02/28/2010
(Insert date)

I - REGISTRANT

1. (a) Name of Registrant
The Whitaker Group, INC

(b) Registration No.
5539

(c) Business Address(es) of Registrant
1133 21st Street, NW
Suite 405
Washington, DC 20036

2. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

- (a) If an individual:
- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Residence address(es) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Citizenship | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Occupation | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
- (b) If an organization:
- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| (1) Name | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) Ownership or control | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (3) Branch offices | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

(c) Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in items (a) and (b) above.

The Whitaker Group LLC (EIN #71-0927450) has become The Whitaker Group INC (EIN #27-0814595)

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IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4 AND 5(a).

3. If you have previously filed Exhibit C¹, state whether any changes therein have occurred during this 6 month reporting period.

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an amendment to the Exhibit C? Yes ☐ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (A waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position	Date connection ended
Sheila Williams	Chief Operating Officer	09/15/2009
Ann Norman	Executive Director, External Affairs	10/16/2009

- (b) Have any persons become partners, officers, directors or similar officials during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence address	Citizenship	Position	Date assumed
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5. (a) Has any person named in item 4(b) rendered services directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, identify each such person and describe his service.

- (b) Have any employees or individuals, who have filed a short form registration statement, terminated their employment or connection with the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Position or connection	Date terminated
Sheila Williams	Chief Operating Officer	09/15/2009
Ann Norman	Executive Director, External Affairs	10/16/2009
Paul Fakes	Sr. Associate, Government Affairs	10/09/2009

- (c) During this 6 month reporting period, has the registrant hired as employees or in any other capacity, any persons who rendered or will render services to the registrant directly in furtherance of the interests of any foreign principal(s) in other than a clerical or secretarial, or in a related or similar capacity? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name	Residence address	Citizenship	Position	Date assumed
Patrick Costello	202 16th Street, SE Washington, DC 20003	USA	Sr. Associate, Government Affairs	12/14/2009

6. Have short form registration statements been filed by all of the persons named in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of the supplemental statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, list names of persons who have not filed the required statement.

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your connection with any foreign principal ended during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal

Date of termination

The Government of the Republic of Uganda

12/31/2009

8. Have you acquired any new foreign principal² during this 6 month reporting period?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name and address of foreign principal

Date acquired

9. In addition to those named in Items 7 and 8, if any, list foreign principals² whom you continued to represent during the 6 month reporting period.

The Lesotho National Development Corporation

10. **EXHIBITS A AND B**

(a) Have you filed for each of the newly acquired foreign principals in Item 8 the following:

Exhibit A ³	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Exhibit B ⁴	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

If no, please attach the required exhibit.

(b) Have there been any changes in the Exhibits A and B previously filed for any foreign principal whom you represented during the 6 month period? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, have you filed an amendment to these exhibits? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, please attach the required amendment.

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in Section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9).) A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

³ The Exhibit A, which is filed on Form NSD-3 (Formerly CRM-157), sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

⁴ The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form NSD-4 (Formerly CRM-155), sets forth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

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11. During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:

See Attachment 1

-
12. During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity⁵ as defined below? Yes ☒ No ☐

If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates and places of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.

See Attachment 1

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13. In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14. (a) RECEIPTS - MONIES

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal, any contributions, income or money either as compensation or otherwise? Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, explain why.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies⁶.

Date	From whom	Purpose	Amount
09/04/2009	Lesotho National Development Corp.	Consulting Services	\$100,000.00
10/08/2009	Uganda	Consulting Services	\$24,433.00
11/10/2009	Uganda	Consulting Services	\$54,306.00
11/24/2009	Uganda	Consulting Services	\$23,700.00
02/17/2010	Lesotho National Development Corp.	Consulting Services	\$49,966.00
			\$252,405.00
			Total

(b) RECEIPTS - FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received, as part of a fund raising campaign⁷, any money on behalf of any foreign principal named in items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, have you filed an Exhibit D⁸ to your registration? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, indicate the date the Exhibit D was filed. Date _____

(c) RECEIPTS - THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you received any thing of value⁹ other than money from any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement, or from any other source, for or in the interests of any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Name of foreign principal	Date received	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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⁶, ⁷ A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

⁸ An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

⁹ Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a) **DISBURSEMENTS – MONIES**

During this 6 month reporting period, have you

(1) disbursed or expended monies in connection with activity on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement? Yes ☒ No ☐(2) transmitted monies to any such foreign principal? Yes ☐ No ☒

If no, explain in full detail why there were no disbursements made on behalf of any foreign principal.

If yes, set forth below in the required detail and separately for each foreign principal an account of such monies, including monies transmitted, if any, to each foreign principal.

Date	To whom	Purpose	Amount
	Lesotho National Development Corp.	See Attachment 2	\$3,285.78
	Uganda	See Attachment 3	\$8,778.65

\$12,064.43

 Total

(b) DISBURSEMENTS – THINGS OF VALUE

During this 6 month reporting period, have you disposed of anything of value¹⁰ other than money in furtherance of or in connection with activities on behalf of any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, or 9 of this statement?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date disposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
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(c) DISBURSEMENTS – POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

During this 6 month reporting period, have you from your own funds and on your own behalf either directly or through any other person, made any contributions of money or other things of value¹¹ in connection with an election to any political office, or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for political office?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, furnish the following information:

Date	Amount or thing of value	Name of political organization	Name of candidate
------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------------

^{10, 11} Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks" and the like.

V - INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16. During this 6 month reporting period, did you prepare, disseminate or cause to be disseminated any informational materials¹²?
 Yes ☒ No ☐

IF YES, RESPOND TO THE REMAINING ITEMS IN SECTION V.

17. Identify each such foreign principal.

Lesotho National Development Corporation

The Government of the Republic of Uganda

18. During this 6 month reporting period, has any foreign principal established a budget or allocated a specified sum of money to finance your activities in preparing or disseminating informational materials? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, identify each such foreign principal, specify amount, and indicate for what period of time.

19. During this 6 month reporting period, did your activities in preparing, disseminating or causing the dissemination of informational materials include the use of any of the following:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio or TV broadcasts | <input type="checkbox"/> Magazine or newspaper articles | <input type="checkbox"/> Motion picture films | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters or telegrams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising campaigns | <input type="checkbox"/> Press releases | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pamphlets or other publications | <input type="checkbox"/> Lectures or speeches |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | | |

20. During this 6 month reporting period, did you disseminate or cause to be disseminated informational materials among any of the following groups:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public officials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legislators | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Editors | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational institutions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government agencies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civic groups or associations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nationality groups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | | |

21. What language was used in the informational materials:

- ☒ English ☐ Other (specify) _____

22. Did you file with the Registration Unit, U.S. Department of Justice a copy of each item of such informational materials disseminated or caused to be disseminated during this 6 month reporting period? Yes ☐ No ☒

23. Did you label each item of such informational materials with the statement required by Section 4(b) of the Act? Yes ☐ No ☒

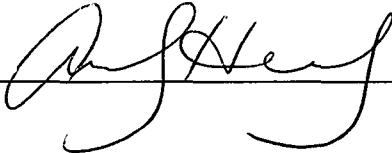
¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI – EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. §1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to the truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)

(Type or print name under each signature¹³)

 25 MAR 10

Aubrey Hruby, Managing Director

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¹³ This statement shall be signed by the individual agent, if the registrant is an individual, or by a majority of those partners, officers, directors or persons performing similar functions, if the registrant is an organization, except that the organization can, by power of attorney, authorize one or more individuals to execute this statement on its behalf.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FARA REGISTRATION UNIT
NATIONAL SECURITY DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

NOTICE

Please answer the following questions and return this sheet in triplicate with your Supplemental Statement:

1. Is your answer to Item 16 of Section V (Informational Materials – page 8 of Form NSD-2, formerly Form CRM-154 Supplemental Statement):

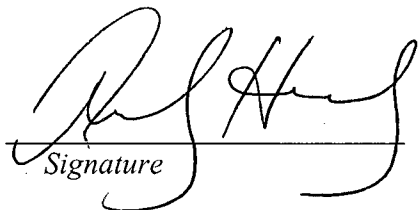
YES ✓ or NO _____

(If your answer to question 1 is "yes" do not answer question 2 of this form.)

2. Do you disseminate any material in connection with your registration:

YES ✓ or NO _____

(If your answer to question 2 is "yes" please forward for our review copies of all material including: films, film catalogs, posters, brochures, press releases, etc. which you have disseminated during the past six months.)


Signature

25 Mar 10
Date

Aubrey Hruby
Please type or print name of
Signatory on the line above

Managing Director
Title

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U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Washington, DC 20530

THIS FORM IS TO BE AN OFFICIAL ATTACHMENT TO YOUR CURRENT SUPPLEMENTAL
STATEMENT - PLEASE EXECUTE IN TRIPLICATE

SHORT-FORM REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET

SECTION A

The Department records list active short-form registration statements for the following persons of your organization filed on the date indicated by each name. If a person is not still functioning in the same capacity directly on behalf of the foreign principal, please show the date of termination.

Short Form List for Registrant: Whitaker Group, LLC

Last Name	First Name and Other Names	Registration Date	Termination Date	Role
Whitaker	Rosa M.	02/13/2003		President + CEO
Williams	Sheila A.	05/04/2004	09/15/2009	Chief Operating Officer
Hruby	Aubrey	12/27/2005		Managing Director
Fakes	Paul T.	06/20/2007	10/09/2009	Sr. Associate, Government Affairs
Hanpeter	Elizabeth	11/06/2008		Associate, Trade + Investment
Norman	Ann	09/24/2009	10/16/2009	Executive Director, External Affairs

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U.S. Department of Justice

National Security Division

Washington, DC 20530

SECTION B

In addition to those persons listed in Section A, list below all current employees rendering services directly on behalf of the foreign principals(s) who have not filed short-form registration statements. (Do not list clerks, secretaries, typists or employees in a similar or related capacity). If there is some question as to whether an employee has an obligation to file a short-form, please address a letter to the Registration Unit describing the activities and connection with the foreign principal.

Name	Function	Date Hired
N/A		

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 25 Mar 10

Title: Managing Director

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FARA Communications Log

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Attachment 2

The Whitaker Group, Inc.
Item Actual Cost Detail

August 25, 2009 through December 31, 2010

The Whitaker Group Expenditures for			
The Lesotho National Development Corporation			
09/01/09-02/28/10			
Date	Payee	Memo	Amount
09/15/2009	Patricia Barber	Consulting Services August 2009	\$595.00
10/08/2009	KITA/Discount Travel	Staff Airfare-August 2009 Travel	\$590.00
11/03/2009	FARA Registration Unit	FARA Supplemental Fees 030109-083109	\$305.00
01/15/2010	Patricia Barber	Consulting Services December 2009	\$500.00
01/27/2010	DHL Express USA	Shipping Client Materials	\$141.05
01/31/2010	Odyssey Services, Inc.	Distribution of Lesotho Update	\$93.70
02/01/2010	FedEx	Shipping Client Materials	\$311.03
02/12/2010	Patricia Barber	Consulting Services January 2010	\$750.00
Total			\$3,285.78

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Attachment 3

The Whitaker Group, Inc.
Item Actual Cost Detail

August 25, 2009 through December 31, 2010

The Whitaker Group Expenditures for the Government of Uganda			
09/01/2009-12/31/2009			
Date	Payee	Memo	Amount
09/09/2009	Serena Hotels	Staff Hotel Expense	\$1,123.10
09/12/2009	Travel Expense	Staff Airfare	\$245.00
09/12/2009	Travel Expense	Staff Travel Expense	\$1,117.32
09/15/2009	Patricia Barber	Consulting Services August 2009	\$695.00
09/20/2009	AMTRAK	Staff Train Expense	\$270.00
09/26/2009	Hilton Hotels	Staff Hotel Expense	\$983.91
09/29/2009	Hilton Hotels	Staff Hotel Expense	\$511.09
09/30/2009	Travel Expense	Staff Travel Expenses	\$457.89
10/13/2009	Odyssey Services	Distribution of Uganda Update	\$68.86
10/15/2009	Patricia Barber	Consulting Services September 2009	\$1,500.00
11/03/2009	FARA Registratio	FARA Supplemental Fees 030109-083109	\$305.00
11/15/2009	Patricia Barber	Consulting Services October 2009	\$1,400.00
01/05/2010	Odyssey Services	Distribution of Uganda Update	\$1.48
01/15/2010	Patricia Barber	Consulting Services December 2009	\$100.00
Total			\$8,778.65

Distribution List 1

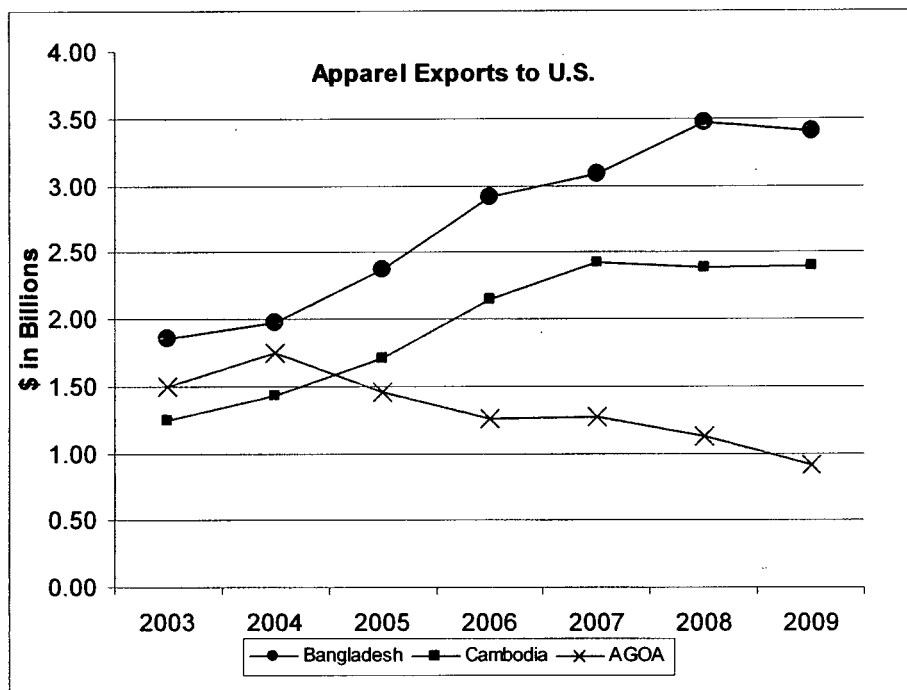
Date	Recipient	Position	Office
12/18/2009	Jayne White	Staff Director	Senator Ron Wyden
12/18/2009	Staci Lancaster	Senior Policy Advisor	Senator Mike Crapo
12/18/2009	Chelsea Cole Thomas	Trade Policy Advisor	Senate Finance Committee - Majority Office
1/4/2010	Chris Campbell	Legislative Director	Senator Orrin Hatch
1/4/2010	Toby Whitney	Legislative Director	Congressman Jim McDermott
1/5/2010	Staci Lancaster	Senior Policy Advisor	Senator Mike Crapo
1/5/2010	Chelsea Cole Thomas	Trade Policy Advisor	Senate Finance Committee - Majority Office
1/5/2010	Chris Campbell	Legislative Director	Senator Orrin Hatch
1/6/2010	Wayne Binkley	Staff Coordinator	Senator Ron Wyden
1/8/2009	Alan Treat	Fellow	Senate Finance Committee Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness
1/26/2010	Viji Rangaswami	Staff Director	Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee - Majority Office
1/26/2010	Behnaz L. Kibria	Trade Counsel	Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee - Majority Office
1/26/2010	Kenneth Monahan	Brookings Legislative Fellow	Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee - Majority Office

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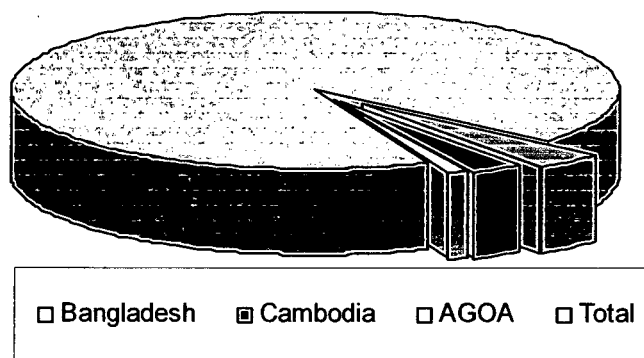
Apparel Exporters: Bangladesh and Cambodia vs. AGOA

- ❖ Since 2003, apparel exports to the US from super-competitors Bangladesh and Cambodia have risen substantially, while exports from AGOA beneficiaries have stagnated and even fallen. Duty-free market access for Bangladesh and Cambodia's apparel will allow them to push AGOA apparel exporters out of the market entirely.

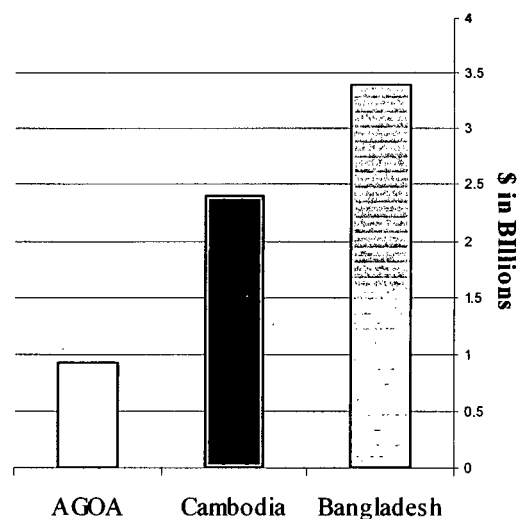


- ❖ In 2008, Bangladesh exported nearly \$3.5 billion in apparel to the US; Cambodia exported almost \$2.4 billion. By contrast, AGOA beneficiaries exported slightly over \$900 million—approximately 15 percent of Bangladesh and Cambodia's total.

US Apparel Imports - 2009

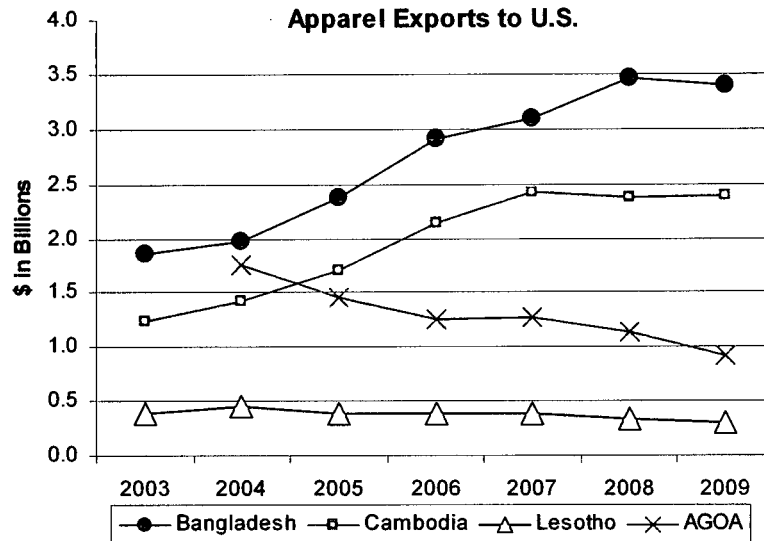


Imports of Apparel from Bangladesh & Cambodia versus AGOA - 2009



Apparel Exporters: Bangladesh and Cambodia vs. Lesotho

- ❖ Since 2003, apparel exports to the US from super-competitors Bangladesh and Cambodia have risen substantially, while exports from Lesotho have stagnated and even fallen. Duty-free market access for Bangladesh and Cambodia's apparel will allow them to push Lesotho out of the market entirely.

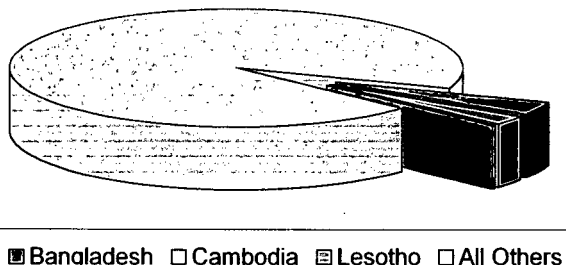


- ❖ In 2008, Bangladesh exported nearly \$3.5 billion in apparel to the US; Cambodia exported almost \$2.4 billion. By contrast, Lesotho exported only \$340 million—less than six percent of Bangladesh and Cambodia's total.

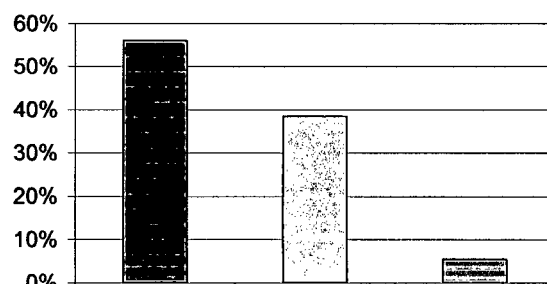
The Need:

- ❖ The textile and garment sectors in Lesotho account for nearly 50% of total national employment, about 40,000 people, each of whom supports an average of five other people. As a result, apparel is responsible for the livelihood of 10% of Lesotho's population.
- ❖ Some 85% of the workers in Lesotho's apparel industry are women, many of whom are the sole-breadwinners in their household.
- ❖ **Keeping apparel jobs in Lesotho is a matter of public health.** When unemployment in Lesotho rises, many men are forced to seek jobs in South African mines and are at much higher risk of getting HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. This puts the entire population of Lesotho at risk.

US Apparel Imports 2008



Imports of Apparel from Bangladesh & Cambodia versus Lesotho - 2008



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Date	Recipient	Position	Office
12/4/2009	Barbara Addy	Chief of Party, Uganda health Initiatives for the	USAID Uganda
12/4/2009	Doug Balko	Director, Office of Economic Growth	US Agency for International Developemnt, USAID/Uganda
12/4/2009	John F. Hoover	Deputy Chief of Mission	Embassy of the United States of America, Uganda
12/4/2009	Bisola Ojikutu	Uganda Desk Officer Office of East African Aff	United States Department of State
12/4/2009	Torina Way	Desk Officer, Uganda	USAID

Distribution List 2

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

WORLD BANK PRESIDENT HAILS UGANDA AS A LEADER IN REGIONAL INTEGRATION

World Bank President Robert Zoellick, on a visit to Uganda in August, described the country as a critical player in regional integration and pledged the Bank's support to help Uganda develop its access to the sea to ease trade and promote economic development.

"I have worked with President [Yoweri] Museveni for nine years starting with the trade topic and I know he has been a critical leader in the need to develop an integrated market for the whole of East Africa and to facilitate transportation of goods and people," Mr. Zoellick said at the end of his three-day visit. "There's a 170-million person market here and that's where the future opportunity lies."

"As a partner for the Government of Uganda, the Bank shall continue to support Uganda's growth agenda, especially to improve infrastructure that will facilitate regional integration, ease trade and shore up economic development. If it has the right infrastructure, such as efficient roads and railways, then Uganda is well placed to overcome the hurdles of being landlocked and promote regional trade, especially through the northern and eastern corridors," he said.

Regional trade within the East African Community (EAC) has grown by 49% since the creation of a customs union in January 2005. In November the five countries that make up the EAC - Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda - signed a treaty creating a common market that will go into effect in July 2010, allowing the free passage of goods and workers across EAC borders.

Uganda has registered a steady increase in cross-border trade, with 55% of its 2008 export earnings deriving from trade with Kenya and Tanzania. In May, it was named one of Africa's fastest growing destinations for foreign investment by fDi Intelligence, a research division of the London-based *Financial Times*, due to predictions of continued strong economic growth. In 2009, GDP is expected to grow by about 6%, rising to an estimated 7% in 2010.

Mr. Zoellick arrived in Uganda on August 12 after visiting the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. He welcomed Uganda's vision to structurally transform the economy from subsistence farming to manufacturing and services. "I am particularly impressed with the government's vision for commercializing agriculture especially in the face of the global crisis and higher food prices," he said.

President Museveni thanked Mr. Zoellick and the World Bank for helping Uganda's economy attain a solid footing for growth and transformation. "We were assisted by the World Bank both in concepts and also material support for which we are extremely grateful," President Museveni said.

While in Uganda, Mr. Zoellick visited the Tilda Rice Estate in Bugiri, which was privatized in 1996 with the assistance of a loan from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank's private sector arm. Tilda currently produces 20,000 metric tons of rice a year, both for domestic



PHOTO: WORLD BANK

An inspector at the Tilda Rice Estate takes stock of packaged rice ready to go to market

consumption and for export, accounting for about 20% of Uganda's total rice yield.

"I am glad to see this project, apart from providing food to the region, has also improved land use, including irrigation, supports local schools, dispensaries and health care clinics, and provides a livelihood and market for more than 1,000 small outgrowers. This is evidence of Uganda's great potential to become a food basket for the region," Mr. Zoellick said.

"The Tilda rice operation is a great example of what President Museveni refers to as food and income security, and with the initiatives which we have started at the Bank and with the international community, I hope we can help the President and his team to advance this kind of initiative across the value chain," he added.

Mr. Zoellick also visited the Malaba border post where he held discussions with senior government officials on regional integration of the rail network. He said the Bank was considering the rehabilitation of the existing railway line from Kampala to the port of Mombasa in Kenya, as well as the rail extension to south Sudan and Tanzania.

Malaba is one of the busiest border posts in the region, serving as a transit point by road and rail for countries west of Kenya, including Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, southern Sudan and the DRC. The border post handles an estimated 53% of all freight destined for Uganda. The value of all cargo passing through Malaba in 2008 was \$2.45 billion.

Before leaving the country, Mr. Zoellick said that he hoped Uganda would benefit from the IFC's new \$1 billion private equity fund set up last May to support the private sector in developing countries through private equity investments and development of local bond markets. The IFC has set up a fund manager subsidiary to manage the private equity fund. The fund will enable national pension funds, sovereign funds and other sovereign investors from the IFC's shareholder countries to make investments in Africa.

"Our IFC colleagues are finding investor interest from government sovereign funds who want to invest through us into African economies," he said. "I hope Uganda will be part of that because it will help Uganda grow, increase the income of its people and help make a more balanced economy."

CLIMATE CHANGE

REFORESTATION PROJECT TARGETS GLOBAL WARMING

Uganda has become the first African country to undertake a reforestation project that will count towards emissions reductions under the Kyoto Protocol, the World Bank announced in October.

The Nile Basin Reforestation Project will be implemented in the Rwoho Central Forest Reserve by Uganda's National Forestry Authority (NFA) in cooperation with local community organizations, using funds from the World Bank's BioCarbon Fund. It is one of only eight reforestation projects worldwide that have been approved so far under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism, and only the third land use change project to be registered by the BioCarbon Fund.

"The Uganda project is the first of several projects that are in the United Nations Clean Development Mechanism pipeline for registration, and which can lead to strong co-benefits, including higher incomes for local communities and greater climate resilience," said Dr. Ellysar Baroudy, Fund Manager for the BioCarbon Fund.

The Nile Basin Plantation will be established in 64 blocks of 25 hectares each, grouped in five small-scale Clean Development Mechanism projects, for a total reforested area of 2,137 hectares. This cluster design allows for the potential involvement of private and community-based investors, since the project area can be split into portfolios of smaller projects or different investor shares.

"This is a milestone for Uganda, especially considering the difficulty associated with bringing reforestation projects to this stage of final approval. I am happy that apart from providing physical financial resources, the project will also generate up to 700 jobs for the local population," said Mr. Kundhavi Kadiresan, the World Bank Country Manager for Uganda. The project will create about 500 jobs during the planting and 200 jobs during ongoing management of the forest.

Seventy-five percent of the plantation will be comprised of the non-native *Pinus caribaea*, a quick-growing Caribbean pine that has been introduced and tested in the area; 20% will be *Maesopsis eminii*, a large African forest tree; and 5% *Prunus africana*, an evergreen with bark that is prized for its medicinal properties. The NFA is providing the seedlings and technical advice to community associations, which will be in charge of protecting the plantations from fire and the remaining patches of natural forest.

The project is expected to sequester an estimated 0.11 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) by the year 2012, and about 0.29 million metric tons of CO₂e by 2017. Other environmental benefits include the reduction of erosion, the increase of dry season flows in area rivers, and the mitigation of ongoing land degradation.

"This pilot project has equipped the NFA with the skills and contacts required to develop more carbon forestry projects in Uganda," said Mr. Damian Akankwasa, the NFA's Executive Director. "The project demonstrates that small-scale farmers can benefit from the international carbon market."

Ms. Inger Andersen, the Director of Sustainable Development in the World Bank's Africa region described forestry and agriculture in Africa as having great potential for carbon mitigation projects. "Through climate-smart land management and forest conservation, Africa can play a vital role in carbon sequestration and climate regulation," she said. "Scaling up these practices is a priority, as they also have great potential for providing sustainable livelihoods for rural Africans."

FOOD SECURITY

FARMING PROGRAM LETS THOUSANDS RETURN HOME

More than a million Ugandans, driven from the northern part of the country by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), are gradually returning to their homes, drawn by a more secure environment and a new United Nations-backed rice-growing program that offers both food security and poverty reduction.

Families returning to the area - some of whom have been living in makeshift camps for more than 20 years - are given the seeds, tools and technical help to grow varieties of high-yielding NERICA rice developed by the West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA).

"The different NERICA varieties offer a number of advantages," said Mr. Percy Misika, the Ugandan representative for the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). "They grow well on the uplands and are resistant to drought, their yield is 30% higher than that of local varieties, and they produce a long grain rice with good flavor and high nutritional content which matures in three months or less when the rains are regular."

The first phase of the plan, which concluded in 2008, involved eight districts of northern, eastern, central and western Uganda where 1,800 farmers received NERICA varieties. Since then nine more northern districts have begun to benefit from the second phase of the scheme. FAO believes that the project will result in more than 2,160 farmers being trained in NERICA crop production.



PHOTO: NATIONAL FORESTRY AUTHORITY

Nursery worker tends tree seedlings for the Nile Basin Reforestation Project

REGIONAL TRADE

TRADE CAPACITY PROGRAM OPENS WAY FOR EXPORTERS

A trade capacity-building program launched at the beginning of 2009 by the Uganda Export Promotion Board (UEPB), in partnership with the Irish-supported organization Traidlinks, has already garnered \$3.2 million in sales orders from neighboring Kenya, and is projected to earn about \$11 million over the next three years in regional exports of Ugandan fruits and vegetables.

The MarketLinked program works to build the capacity of the food-processing and agribusiness sectors and has direct benefits through the supply chain to agriculture, providing an increased internal and regional export market for agricultural goods while building the capacity of farmers.

The program focuses on experiential, market-led skills transfer, and includes three formal workshops, market research and a sales mission to a neighboring regional market. Traidlinks facilitators work with individual private Ugandan agro-processing companies to teach export skills by combining formal management and technical training and hands-on export market development support. The program specifically targets agribusiness because almost 80% of Ugandans depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, contributing 67% of GDP.

In 2009, Traidlinks worked with 12 fruit and vegetable exporters, including Amfri Farms Ltd., Sulma Foods Ltd., Frona Commodities and Bessa Ltd., all of which are exporters of fresh, dried and frozen fruits and vegetables.

Traidlinks, a not-for-profit organization linking the Irish business community to the Irish government's aid program in developing countries, developed the MarketLinked program based upon a pilot project it conducted with Amfri Farms. It began to work with the Kampala-based agro-processor in 2005 after it selected Amfri as a supplier of organic dried fruits to complement the tea and coffee in its Heart of Africa range of fair trade products.

Traidlinks developed a model for the MarketLinked program by identifying gaps in key areas such as production, inventory, labor and accounts, and by providing Amfri with relevant expertise to put in place the necessary management systems to address these gaps.



Employees chopping passion fruit at the Amfri Farms factory in Kampala

Mr. Amin Shivji, Managing Director of Amfri Farms, complimented Traidlinks on its support. "Traidlinks does not just improve the product and packaging. They have stayed with us [during] the whole evolution of the product, the process, the human resource, management," he said. "[Amfri] has now matured to a professional level. [When] you walk in, you are walking into a sophisticated environment. This means that everybody has to be brought up to that level."

Amfri Farms Ltd. grows and exports organic fruits and vegetables, and is certified to European Union (EU) standards. It has over 100 certified out-growers and buys produce from about 20 other growers.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

MTN UGANDA TO INVEST \$100 MILLION IN UPGRADES

MTN Uganda, the country's leading mobile phone service provider, has secured an innovative \$100 million financing facility from 11 local and regional banks to improve and expand its network. The deal represents the largest syndicated corporate credit line ever made available by Uganda's banking sector.

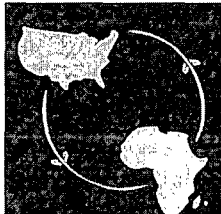
The telecommunications provider, which claims an estimated 65% of the country's fixed and mobile phone market, plans to use the line of credit to finance its ongoing expansion, including the construction of further cell towers and base stations, the development of new products and the consolidation of its market leadership in the face of increasing competition.

Since it was established in 1998, MTN Uganda has invested a total of \$578 million to provide fixed and mobile telephone services to about five million Ugandans. It has been a leader in Africa in extending telecommunications access to rural villages through innovative programs such as its VillagePhone program instituted in partnership with microfinance institutions such as the Grameen Foundation.

South Africa-based investment bank ABSA Capital coordinated the credit line, which is backed by Stanbic Bank, Kenya Commercial Bank, Standard Chartered, Barclays, Ecobank, DFCU Bank, Bank of Africa Uganda, Citibank Uganda, Orient Bank and United Bank of Africa.

"The corporate financing facility is an indication of the confidence that banks have in our company. It also reflects the confidence that the financial sector has in the Ugandan economy and the prospects of the Ugandan telecommunications sector," said Mr. Themba Khumalo, MTN Uganda's CEO.

"The innovative structure addresses the need for strong local corporate credits in the sub-Saharan Africa syndicated loan market to manage their funding needs and avoid frequent refinancing and associated costs as additional debt funding becomes available - allowing corporate issuers to maintain an optimal and efficient capital structure," said MTN Uganda's Chairman, Mr. Charles Mbire.



INNOVATION & CONSERVATION

UWA TURNS TO SOCIAL MEDIA TO SAVE GORILLAS

The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism, has turned to social networking sites Facebook and Twitter to raise money for gorilla conservation and to market visits to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest to track the endangered primates.



Obia, a blackback male gorilla and member of the Bitukura family, is one of the gorillas that can be "friended" through Facebook and Twitter.

The UWA launched its "Friend a Gorilla" campaign in September to give Facebook and Twitter users the opportunity to become virtual "friends" - for the cost of \$1 per animal - of one or more of 95 gorillas from six family groups that inhabit Bwindi. Users can also "give" gorillas as gifts to their cyber friends. The UWA estimates that the program has the potential to raise more than \$100 million for gorilla conservation.

About 340 of the 720 gorillas alive today live in Uganda. The gorillas available for "friending" are members of groups that have been habituated to tourists who pay \$500 each to spend an hour tracking them in the forest. Visitors to the site (www.friendagorilla.org) will soon be able to watch the animals in real time over the internet, via a system of cameras located in the forest.

"Because we cannot physically satisfy global demand to track gorillas, we have decided to use technology and bring these gorillas into the sitting rooms of people around the globe by positioning cameras in the wild," Mr. Moses Mapesa Wafula, the

head of the UWA, told the French news agency AFP.

Increasingly, nonprofits around the world are trying to harness the explosive growth of the internet-driven social media to raise funds and build awareness for their causes. According to the latest figures, there are more than 300 million active users of Facebook worldwide, and Twitter attracts about 55 million visits every month.

The UWA described the new campaign as a shift away from the use of paper brochures towards harnessing IT technology to market Uganda's tourism potential. According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, tourist arrivals grew by 29.7% in the first quarter of 2009, compared to the same period last year. Gorilla tourism is Uganda's second highest foreign currency earner.

The Government of Uganda has worked to ensure that local communities have a stake in the preservation of the gorillas by allowing them to become stakeholders in the local tourism. In addition to receiving a 20% share of national park entry fees, local communities run some of the accommodations around Bwindi and sell a portion of their agricultural produce to the lodges and tented camps.

LOCAL SOURCING

NILE BREWERIES TO DOUBLE CAPACITY AT NEW PLANT

Nile Breweries Ltd. (NBL) opened a new \$29-million brewhouse and packing plant in August that will allow it to double its annual beer production from seven million cases to 14 million cases. The company, owned by global brewing corporation SABMiller, directly employs 430 workers but supports an additional 44,000 jobs in Uganda through its value chain.

NBL's top selling beer is Eagle Lager, which is brewed from sorghum grown locally by about 8,000 farmers who have a guaranteed market for their crop through NBL's Eagle Project. NBL launched the project in 2002 as a way to manufacture less expensive beer for Ugandan consumers. Other beers are brewed from imported barley and hops, which are subject to import duties, adding to the cost of the final product. The success of Eagle Lager in Uganda has led NBL to pilot similar projects in Tanzania and Zambia.

"The business strategy is to create more affordable products," said Mr. Andy Wales, SABMiller's head of Sustainable Development. "That's good for Ugandan farmers since it expands the market for their products, and it's good for SABMiller because we sell more beer. It shows how we can grow our business while creating local economic benefits."

Purchase agreements that guarantee prices at levels above market rates are signed in advance with farmers who then grow a drought-resistant sorghum variety bred specifically for Ugandan conditions by the Kampala-based Serere Agriculture and Animal Research Institute (SAARI). The brewer announced in September that it would act as a guarantor for sorghum farmers who organize themselves into cooperatives and wish to take out loans to buy tractors and other equipment to improve the quality and quantity of their yields.

A study released in September by Professor Ethan Kapstein of INSEAD Business School found that NBL and its employees directly or indirectly generated value addition of \$92 million a year in the form of salaries, company profits, household savings and dividends. As Uganda's fourth largest taxpayer, the company also contributed government tax revenues of \$55 million.

SABMiller is now experimenting with growing barley in Uganda instead of importing it from Europe.



NBL has created a sustainable market for sorghum for local farmers

Distribution List 3

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ECONOMIC STEWARDSHIP

WEATHERING THE GLOBAL RECESSION

The Government of Lesotho is moving swiftly to support Lesotho's manufacturing sector and small business enterprises in an effort to minimize the effects of the global economic downturn on the nation's economy.



Lesotho is working hard to sustain its apparel sector

It has launched a trade facility initiative, overseen by the Central Bank of Lesotho, to support the working capital requirements of the garment industry, and has extended Lesotho's Duty Credit Certificate Scheme (DCCS), which manufacturers can apply to duties on the importation of raw materials that form inputs into the manufacturing process.

Lesotho will also benefit from the Global Trade Liquidity Program (GTLTP), funded by G-20 countries, which extends trade finance to importers and exporters in emerging economies at a time when tight global credit markets are limiting available financing.

LNDC

Despite the global recession, the parastatal Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) is working to develop a Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme (PCGS) to support Basotho-owned businesses with an annual turnover of less than \$250,000. The LNDC will share the risk on loans made to small businesses by commercial banks.

The LNDC recently reported that, despite a slowdown in the retail sector in the United States, most of the 42 clothing and textile factories in Lesotho had orders up to the second quarter of 2009, while a few had actually secured orders for the whole of this year.

The US imported \$106.2 million in apparel from Lesotho from January to May 2009, according to the US-Africa Trade Report, down from \$129.4 million over the same period last year.

To support Lesotho's manufacturing sector, the LNDC has frozen the rent on facilities used by industrial tenants, effective from April 1, 2009. It reported that as of the end of March 2009, the portfolio of manufacturing companies operating in Lesotho remained almost constant at 74 companies.

As an indication of its determination to sustain its apparel and textile sectors, the LNDC is going ahead with skills development trainings for the sector. In March, it opened a second training center in Maseru. The Maputsoe Center has so

far trained about 80 people in professional sewing skills.

In January, the Central Bank of Lesotho reported that a refund to about 48,000 taxpayers was expected to act as a stimulus to the country's economy.

The refund is the result of an amendment to Lesotho's income tax law that reduces the lower tax rate and increases tax credits for some taxpayers. It is estimated at over \$12.5 million, or 0.7% of GDP, and is expected to help support consumption spending for a significant number of households, including those that might be affected by job lay-offs. The injection of cash into the economy is also expected to give a boost to a wide range of businesses, including the retail and service sectors.

ICT

LESOTHO ON TO E-NETWORK PROJECT WITH INDIA

Lesotho became part of India's ambitious Pan-African e-Network project in July with the signing of a \$110 million agreement between the governments of the two countries.

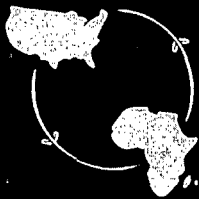
The project, the result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and the African Union in 2004, links leading Indian universities and hospitals via satellite to their counterparts in countries throughout Africa, with the goal of connecting all 53 countries in Africa to the network. So far 20 African countries have signed on to the project.

"The signing of the country agreement with Lesotho is an example of south-south cooperation," said India's Minister of State for Communications and IT Mr. Gurudas Kamat. Under the agreement, the Indian parastatal Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) will design, procure and install equipment and provide operation and management services to Lesotho for five years.

Under the educational component, Basotho students will be able to receive degrees from any of seven Indian universities, including the Indian Institute of Science-Bangalore, Amity University, the University of Madras, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Birla Institute of Technology and Science, the University of Delhi and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. In June, 34 Ethiopian students - the first to participate in the project - graduated with MBA degrees from IGNOU.

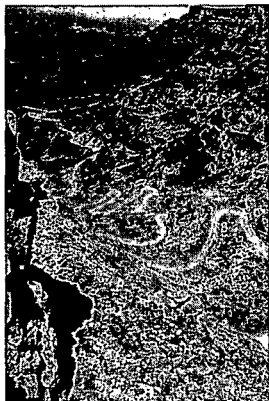
The tele-medicine network will link doctors from 12 Indian specialty hospitals with their counterparts in Lesotho through online training programs. The hospitals include the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Escorts Heart Institute, Care Hospital in Hyderabad and Narayan Hrudayalaya, one of the world's largest pediatric heart centers.

The Indian government has established tele-education and tele-medicine hubs in Bangalore and Ahmedabad in India, and in Dakar, Senegal, in Africa.



LESOTHO PAVES THE WAY FOR WORLD CUP TOURISM

Lesotho will upgrade several highways, including the road leading to the top of scenic Sani Pass, to improve accessibility to the country's tourist attractions in preparation for the Soccer World Cup to be held in South Africa in 2010, Lesotho's Minister of Tourism, Environment and Culture, Ms. Lebohang Nts'inyi, announced in July.



The road through Sani Pass has long been passable only to 4X4 vehicles

The road to the top of Sani Pass, which is the gateway to Lesotho from KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, has long been considered treacherous, but with paving, it will be possible for tourists to more easily visit the Sani Pass Hotel and other attractions at the top of the pass.

In addition, Ms. Nts'inyi said, the road to Sehlabathebe National Park, south of Sani Pass, will be improved and the Ministry is working on having the park listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Government of Lesotho is working to capitalize as much as possible on the World Cup. It has completed construction on a Cultural Village at Thaba Bosiu, east of Maseru. Thaba Bosiu occupies a special place in Basotho history as the site where King Moshoeshoe defended his kingdom from invaders. Twenty guesthouses around the country have also been built and the Ministry of Tourism is working with homeowners wishing to host visitors during the World Cup.

NEW INVESTMENT

COAT HANGER FACTORY TO OPEN IN LESOTHO

Hanger Dynamics, a South African coat hanger manufacturer, opened a new plant in August in Maputsoe to support Lesotho's 35 apparel manufacturers.

With an initial investment of \$250,000, the company will install six injection-molding machines with the capacity to produce 1.5 million hangers per month. Within 18 months, it plans to double its investment and output and provide employment for about 120 Basotho.

While the factory's primary market will be Lesotho's apparel sector, it will also produce hangers to be sold in South Africa, Swaziland and other African markets.

The opening of the plant will obviate the need for garment-makers to import coat hangers from China. "Freighting out of China is a big exposure, and then there is the enormous congestion at the Durban port," said Hanger Dynamics owner Mr. Kevin Ashton. "What we'll bring is door-to-door service which cuts out 25 days on the water and delays at the

port, which sometimes stretches lead times to a month."

Mr. Ashton praised the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) for its assistance in bringing the project to fruition. Lesotho levies no corporate tax for the first five years of investment, and offers factory space costing a quarter of the rent usually charged in South Africa and a less expensive workforce. As a result, it offers an extremely attractive environment for investors to open up operations there.

PRIVATE SECTOR FIGHTING HIV/AIDS

GLOBAL BUSINESS COALITION RECOGNIZES ALAFA

The Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GBC) announced in June that it was giving special recognition in the supply chain engagement section to Apparel Lesotho Alliance to Fight AIDS (ALAFA).

GBC is a coalition of more than 220 companies united to keep the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria a global priority. The annual GBC Business Excellence Awards recognize private sector HIV/AIDS programs.

ALAFA was recognized for the sustained commitment of managers and buyers, providing adequate financing to help bridge gaps in interventions, and the presence of primary healthcare services in the workplace.

"The annual awards procedure allows a program like ours to be exposed to a high-level panel of expert judges and provides motivation and direction to grow," said Mr. Bart Vander Plaetse, ALAFA's CEO. "It reassures us in our conviction that it is possible to fight poverty and protect the health and livelihood of the major workforce in Lesotho, and sustain the apparel sector, which is the main employer in the country."

"The industry-wide ALAFA model allows a multiplicity of stakeholders, among them the buyers and ultimately their clients in retail shops, to participate in changing history of this HIV pandemic that is destroying lives," he added.

ALAFA is an industry-wide program providing education and prevention, voluntary testing and counseling, and management of AIDS through the roll-out of care and treatment of HIV-positive workers and their spouses in Lesotho's apparel and textile sector. It is hosted by the Lesotho Textile Exporters Association and supported by private sector and international donor agencies.

In 2008 ALAFA won the prestigious Southern Africa Trust Drivers of Change Award for its innovative community-based public-private-community partnership to protect a key productive economic sector from the ravages of HIV/AIDS.



ALAFA peer educator

TECHNOLOGICAL EMPOWERMENT

UGANDA UPDATE

GOOGLE-GRAMEEN PARTNERSHIP LAUNCHES APPLAB WITH MTN UGANDA

Search engine giant Google, in partnership with the Grameen Foundation and cell phone service provider MTN Uganda, launched a suite of five mobile phone applications in June that could revolutionize the lives of millions of farmers and small entrepreneurs across the country.

Known as Application Laboratory (AppLab), the suite uses Google SMS Search technology and the MTN network. It includes Google SMS Tips, which allows users to have an experience similar to a web search; Farmer's Friend, a searchable database with both agricultural advice and targeted weather forecasts; Health Tips, which provides sexual and reproductive health information, paired with Clinic Finder, which helps locate nearby health clinics and services; and Google Trader, which matches buyers and sellers of agricultural produce and commodities as well as other products.

Grameen Foundation, a global nonprofit organization that helps the world's poorest people access financial services and technological solutions, developed the suite of services in 2007. It is the most comprehensive suite of cell applications to be offered in Africa, and Grameen intends to launch similar services in other African countries.

The services are designed to work with basic mobile phones to reach the broadest possible audience. A user enters a text query and Google returns relevant answers after searching a database. Users can access the services quickly and privately at any time to search relevant content on-demand in the same way that a user accesses the internet. Google says the scheme could help about nine million Ugandans who have mobile phones but do not have internet access.

AppLab Uganda, located in Kampala and directed by the Grameen Foundation's Technological Center, focuses on creating opportunities for poor people to share and access essential information through innovative uses of mobile telephony.

Empowering Communities

"Our core mission is to enable the poor to create a world without poverty. Technology has always played a key role in achieving this mission for us," Mr. Peter Blandin, Executive Director of the Grameen Foundation, told the *Guardian* newspaper. "We believe that access to the information and services that many of us take for granted will help alleviate poverty and empower poor and underserved communities."

According to the International Telecommunications Union, Uganda has the fastest growth rate in mobile phone subscriptions in Africa with 9.5 million subscribers - 30% of the population - surpassing the 27% average coverage in the rest of Africa. The number of people who have access to a cell phone is much higher, however, because handsets are often shared by family members and village phone operators who sell time on their cell phones to members of the community.

"The marketing of the mobile phone in Uganda has changed the way people do business," said Mr. Richard Mu-



PHOTO: GRAMEEN FOUNDATION

A farmer in Uganda uses the AppLab Farmer's Friend application to seek advice regarding a disease afflicting his pineapple crop. After typing in the words "pineapple disease," he receives the answer: "Copper deficiency in pineapples leads to fruit rot. Cut affected fruit and dispose of where they will not contaminate other fruits, or burn."

rami, Head of Public Access & Mobile Money at MTN Uganda. "People feel more in control in the way they do their own thing, in the fact that they can hold a phone and be able to make an important decision, communicate, run a business. For us to go that extra step and innovate and provide value-added services to our operators is a great step towards building a good value proposition because if we are going to give people products on their mobile phone, we are empowering them."

The information in the applications was developed in collaboration with key local partners. The Busoga Rural Open Source Development Initiative (BROSDI) provides locally relevant agricultural information created and tested by smallholder farmers and designed to meet their needs. AppLab worked with Marie Stopes Uganda, the local affiliate of the international sexual and reproductive health NGO, and Straight Talk Foundation, a Ugandan nonprofit that specializes in health communication, to develop the health component.

Using the Google Trader application, local buyers and sellers are able to broaden their trading networks and reduce their transaction costs. AppLab worked with the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, TechnoServe and SNV Netherlands Development Organization to develop the concept with banana farmers and traders in southwestern Uganda.

"These sustainable and scalable models put critical information and knowledge directly into the hands of poor people who have access to mobile devices, in an effort to further alleviate poverty," said Mr. Joseph Mucheru, the head of Google's East Africa office. "This work is significant both for individuals and for the broader regional economy."

ICT INFRASTRUCTURE

AFRICA'S SEACOM SUBMARINE CABLE GOES LIVE

The SEACOM submarine cable, connecting Eastern and Southern Africa to global networks in Asia and Europe, went live in July, opening up opportunities for governments, businesses and individuals to use the network as a platform to drive economic growth and compete globally.

The fiber optic cable was simultaneously launched on July 23 in five countries - Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. It will lower the cost of telecommunications in Africa and connect the region to the global information highway via broadband internet access. Among the other benefits will be the ability to provide business process outsourcing (BPO) services, real time event streaming, high resolution and internet television, data and video services and e-learning and e-commerce services, all with the potential to help develop Uganda's service sector.

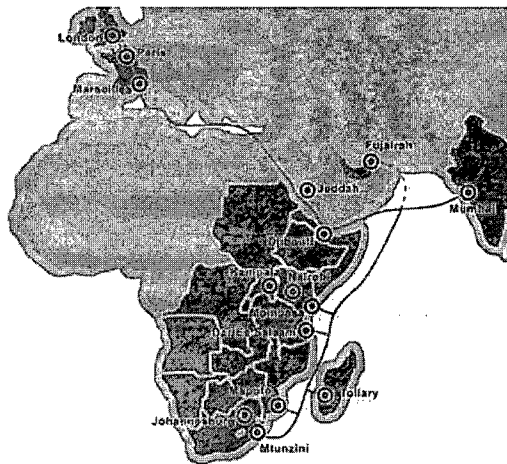
Information and Communication Technology Minister, Mr. Aggrey Awori described the arrival of the cable as the advent of a new age. "This will be one of the great leveling tools of our time," he said.

The 17,000-km-long cable took two years to lay at a cost of about \$650 million. At its commissioning, Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete spoke via a live feed from Dar-es-Salaam to journalists in Kampala, Maputo, Johannesburg, London and Marseille in the south of France. "The arrival of this cable signals the beginning of a new era in the telecommunications sector," said President Kikwete. "History has been made."

The benefits of the cable - super fast internet connections and vastly expanded bandwidth capacity - are expected to be immense, particularly in East Africa which until now has had to rely solely on expensive satellite communication. SEACOM has announced it would offer wholesale prices for use of the cable to telecommunications companies in the range of \$100 per megabyte. "What we are providing is a highway and it will be up to the telecom companies and internet service providers to decide the final cost," said Mr. Haskell Ward, SEACOM's Senior Vice President for Government Relations. "No project can compete with this for the importance it holds for Africa."

The extraordinary benefits of the cable were immediately felt at the AGOA Forum, held in Nairobi in August, when for the first time the proceedings could be streamed live to all five of the connected countries.

In anticipation of the arrival of the cable, the Government of Uganda over the past several years has been building a national fiber optic data transmission backbone to which local telecommunications companies MTN Uganda and Uganda Telecom have connected via their own land-based cables. The Ugandan government plans to subsidize bandwidth costs for BPO companies and help them market their services at home and abroad.



The SEACOM cable connects Eastern and Southern Africa to Asia and Europe

SAVING LIVES

LAKE VICTORIA FISHERMEN GET CELL PHONE RESCUE SERVICE

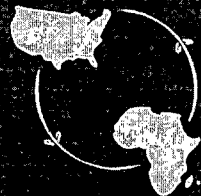
The 200,000 fishermen who earn their living on Lake Victoria can now use cell phones to call for help free-of-charge should they run into trouble on the 69,000 km² body of water, the world's second largest inland lake. Up to 5,000 people die each year on Lake Victoria as a result of piracy, drowning and other accidents.

The new service, launched in July, is the result of a collaboration between mobile operator Zain, global communications technology provider Ericsson and the GSMA Development Fund, the charitable arm of the trade association serving the mobile phone industry. Zain and Ericsson upgraded the existing infrastructure and built an additional 21 radio sites - three of them solar-powered - to provide cell phone coverage up to 20 kilometers into the lake. This ensures coverage to over 90% of fishing zones.

When fishermen in distress call the free emergency number, Ericsson's Mobile Position System, which determines the geographical location of mobile subscribers, will enable emergency services to locate the mobile signal of the caller and relay the information to a Rescue Coordination Center run by Uganda's National Lake Rescue Initiative (NLRI), which operates rescue boats. The service also has the capacity to alert the crews of nearby boats to the location of the boat in distress.

The initiative was the result of a 2005 feasibility study conducted by the East African Community (EAC) to evaluate and recommend technologies for a maritime communications system for Lake Victoria, which constitutes the world's largest freshwater fishery, producing 700,000 to 800,000 metric tons of fish annually worth about \$400 million. As well as providing increased safety and security, the extended cell phone coverage is also expected to provide an economic boost to the commercial fishing sector and to the tourism and transportation industries.

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EXPORT EARNINGS

REGIONAL TRADE BOOSTS UGANDA'S SURPLUS

Uganda recorded a trade surplus in May for the second month running, thanks largely to a surge in the export of manufactured goods and informal cross border trade, the Bank of Uganda announced in July.

Exports earned \$344.3 million, while the country imported \$297.1 million in goods, the Bank reported.



Informal cross border trade has boosted Uganda's export earnings

"The economy continued to show its robustness and resilience to external shocks by registering a trade surplus in May 2009, driven largely by robust performance in the informal cross border trade," the Bank's report stated.

Informal trade increased 66% to \$239.9 million in May compared to the same period last year. Total

exports grew 19% in May from \$316.9 million in May 2008, while the import bill decreased by 16% over the same period in 2008 due largely to lower international prices.

The trade figures reflected a growth in demand from southern Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for Uganda's food, particularly rice and beans, and manufactured products.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION

EAC STATES TO LAUNCH COMMON MARKET

The five member states of the East African Community (EAC) have agreed to formally launch a common market on January 1, 2010, allowing the free movement of goods, services, capital and people across the region.

Under the agreement, to be signed in November, the five EAC nations - Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda - expect the common market to enable partner states to enjoy economies of scale with a view to supporting the process of regional economic development. The member states are also negotiating to have one visa to allow investors and visitors to move easily between EAC countries.

The new agreement extends the already existing Customs Union, which allows only raw materials to cross borders duty-free.

The trade bloc covers more than 121 million people with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of \$57 billion. EAC officials hope a common market will make their region easier to market overseas as an investment, trade and travel destination. The share of Uganda's exports going to its neighbors has grown steadily since the launch of the original customs

union in 2005. In 2008, \$209.6 million, 55% of the country's export earnings came from exports to Kenya and Tanzania. As Uganda contains more arable land than its neighbors, it in particular stands to benefit from reduced barriers to food exports. The next step towards full regional political and economic integration will be the establishment of a monetary union followed, eventually, by political federation.

FIGHTING COUNTERFEITERS

IMPORTS TO BE INSPECTED AT COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

In a move to combat the importation of counterfeit goods, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) will be hiring special agents in November to inspect high-risk goods destined to be exported to Uganda before they leave their country of origin.

UNBS Executive Director Mr. Terry Kahuma described the Pre-export Verification of Conformity Program (PVoC) as a measure to improve the quality of the goods coming into Uganda and to protect consumers from substandard and counterfeit imports such as pharmaceutical drugs.

Other products to be covered include electrical products and appliances, food products, building and construction materials, domestic and household goods, tires, tubes, spare parts, chemicals and toys. The PVoC will also help ensure that Ugandan manufacturers will not be subjected to unfair competition from cheaper counterfeit or substandard products.

Ugandan officials believe the program will streamline the importation process by reducing or eliminating delays in clearing imports caused by sampling and testing while the goods are in customs. They also hope it will relieve importers of laboratory costs and will reduce demurrage (compensation for import delays) and difficulties and costs associated with the disposal or re-exportation of rejected goods. An additional benefit will be the elimination of the unethical disposal of toxic substances such as radioactive waste.

UNBS will work in collaboration with national standards agencies in the countries of origin. Goods that pass inspection will be issued with a certificate of conformity to UNBS standards, which must be presented when the goods enter a Ugandan port of entry.



Ugandan police display seized counterfeit goods

FOOD SECURITY

UGANDA TO BE PART OF DROUGHT-TOLERANT MAIZE TRIAL

As part of the ongoing effort to increase food security in Africa, Kasese region in southwestern Uganda has been selected as one of five areas to conduct field trials for new drought-tolerant varieties of maize, the most widely grown food staple in Africa.

With more than 300 million people dependent on maize as a food source and with drought expected to increase in Africa as a result of climate change, scientists are focusing on developing varieties that will reliably survive dry weather conditions. The trials will combine conventional breeding, marker-assisted breeding and biotechnology, and will be subject to assessment by national authorities according to the regulatory requirements of the partner countries. Trials will also be conducted in Kenya, Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania.

The five-year Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project is being conducted by an innovative public-private partnership that brings together the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF); the Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), an international seed development organization; the global agricultural company Monsanto; and agricultural research institutions in eastern and southern Africa. The WEMA partnership was formed in response to a growing call by African farmers, governments and scientists for the need to address the effects of drought in a way that is cost effective to African smallholder farmers.

CIMMYT will provide high-yielding maize varieties that are adapted to African conditions and expertise through conventional breeding and testing for drought tolerance. Monsanto will provide proprietary germplasm, advanced breeding tools and expertise, and drought-tolerance transgenes developed in collaboration with the chemical company BASF. The project will also involve local agricultural and research institutions, both public and private, thus expanding their capacity and experience in crop breeding, biotechnology and biosafety.

It has been estimated that 25% of losses due to drought can be eliminated by genetic improvement in drought tolerance, and a further 25% by application of water conservation practices. According to Dr. Godfrey Asea, the WEMA country coordinator, the new varieties are expected to increase yields by 20% to 35% over current varieties in drought conditions.

Seeds from the varieties developed through the project will be distributed royalty-free to African seed companies.



Maize is food staple in Uganda

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

UGANDAN TOURISM COMPANY GOES CARBON NEUTRAL

Classic Africa Safaris has become the first Ugandan company to go carbon neutral by buying carbon credits from farmers in the Bushenyi region who are growing indigenous trees under the Trees for Global Benefit (TGB) project managed by the Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda (Ecotrust).

"As a business based in Uganda, we are contributing to the country's carbon footprint and climate change," Mr. Mel Gormley, the Managing Director of Classic Africa Safaris told *New Vision* newspaper. "We decided to go carbon neutral because it is the right thing to do."

The Uganda Carbon Bureau assessed how much carbon the company produces to determine the number of credits it should buy to offset its emissions. Classic Africa Safaris is also following guidance from the bureau to further cut its energy use by maintaining company vehicles and employing other energy-saving measures.



Farmer in Bushenyi inspects tree seedlings

The TGB program is a cooperative carbon offset program aimed at restoring important and degraded forest habitats. The trees belong to the individual farmer who has a management objective for growing them - usually timber, medicine or fruit - and receives subsidies through carbon certificates. One hundred and thirty six farmers are currently enrolled in the Bushenyi region. They earn additional income through the establishment of tree nurseries and the sale of seedlings.

TGB was established in Uganda in 2003 as a way to bring opportunities to farmers and smallholders to use their land in a sustainable but profitable manner. Farmer income and technical training offered through the project allows the farmer to protect the land and pursue sustainable agriculture options rather than clearing the land for intensive farming. The project also encourages biodiversity preservation and helps protect the extensive equatorial riverine forest in the Kyambura Wildlife Reserve.

Uganda is one of Africa's leaders in the fast-developing carbon credit market. The Uganda Carbon Bureau provides practical advice and support to project developers, carbon credit buyers, development agencies and others wanting to better understand climate change, global warming and the carbon emissions trading markets. The bureau is also providing advice and support to the newly created Ugandan Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change.

CLIMATE CHANGE

LESOTHO STANDS STRONG AT COPENHAGEN CONFERENCE

A group of 49 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) chaired by the Kingdom of Lesotho called on developed nations in December to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 45% of 1990 levels by 2020, and to make substantive commitments to helping LDCs adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Mr. Bruno Tseliso Sekoli, Lesotho's Chief Negotiator at the Copenhagen climate change conference and chairman of the LDC group, said guaranteed, long-term financing for technology and capacity-building will be needed if the world's poorest countries are to avoid sinking further into poverty. "There is need for considerable additional financial and other forms of assistance for adaptation," he said. Most of the nations classified as LDCs are in Africa, which accounts for just 8.1% of global emissions.

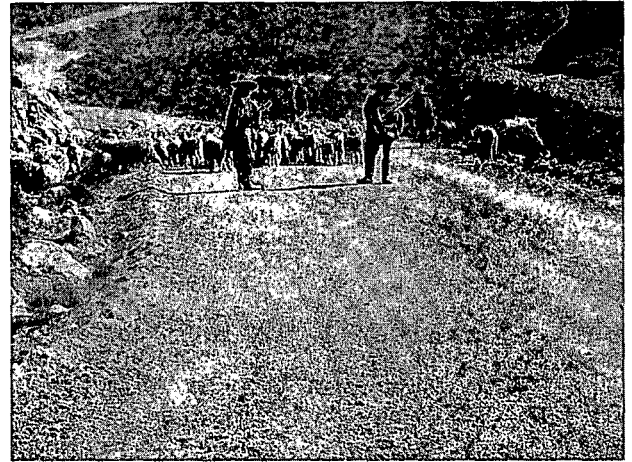
Speaking on behalf of the LDC Group, the Right Hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Pakalitha Mosisili called adaptation to global warming "a matter of life and death to the LDCs."

"The LDCs would like to see developed countries fulfill their commitments to support implementation of adaptation through provision of finance, technology and capacity-building to the LDCs," he said. "The Copenhagen outcome must ensure significant scaling up of funds. These funds must be accessible, predictable and sustainable in order to support urgent and long-term adaptation programs that reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change impacts."

Since the establishment in 2001 of a fund to help poor countries adapt to global warming, 43 of the 49 LDCs, including Lesotho, have submitted National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs). The final Copenhagen accord called on the developed world to contribute \$100 billion by 2020 to help poor nations adapt to climate change and adopt low-emission technologies as part of their development agendas.

Scientists predict that climate change will bring generally dryer and hotter weather conditions to Lesotho. In addition, the intensity and frequency of extreme events such as floods and droughts are expected to increase, especially in the western and northern lowlands. Water resources, in particular, will be negatively impacted with an increase in evaporation and a decrease in runoff and groundwater recharge. Rangeland conditions may also deteriorate, adversely affecting Lesotho's livestock industry. There are also concerns that the present indigenous forests may become semi-arid areas and that agricultural production will decline.

The adaptation measures suggested in Lesotho's NAPA include stepping up education and outreach measures to change land management practices; switching to different food crop cultivars; improving and conserving soils; enhancing irrigation efficiency and expanding irrigation; developing new crops; establishing early warning systems; decreasing water demands; and developing flood and drought monitoring controls.



Climate change is expected to accelerate deterioration of Lesotho's rangelands, which are critical to supporting the country's livestock industry.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION

CELL PHONE TECHNOLOGY DOUBLES EMAIL ACCESS

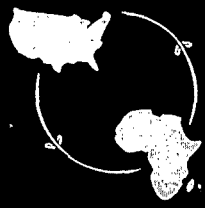
Econet Telecom Lesotho (ETL), the country's largest fixed and mobile communications provider, announced in January that it has launched a two-way email service available to its cell phone customer base, in partnership with ForgetMeNot Africa, a specialist in unified messaging for telecom operators.

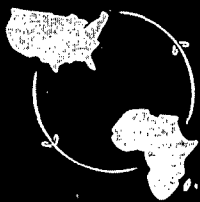
ForgetMeNot Africa's Message Optimizer brings email to rural and urban areas across Lesotho via any mobile phone, without requiring the end user to access the internet, upgrade his or her device, or download a specific application.

By more than doubling the population's access to email, the new service allows Lesotho to have some of the highest rates of email availability throughout Africa even though only 3.4% of Basotho have access to the internet. The service bypasses the need for internet access by using text messaging (SMS) to send and receive emails.

"We are proud to be one of the first companies in Africa to significantly improve the population's access to email via ForgetMeNot Africa's Message Optimizer service, which opens up email communications to our entire subscriber base irrespective of what phone they are using," said Mr. Mpine Tente, Head of Retail and Customer Service at Econet Telecom Lesotho. "Our mobile phone customers can now use email to share important information, communicate with family overseas or friends in another country, or even do business with people just a few miles down the road, all for the cost of a local SMS."

With only about 2,000 computers connected to the internet in Lesotho, almost all in urban areas, very few of the country's two million citizens could access the internet before the launch of the new service.





LOCAL SOURCING

BASOTHO FARMERS TO GROW SORGHUM FOR BEER

Eight local farmers from Maseru, Berea, Leribe and Mafeteng have entered into a partnership with Lesotho Brewing Company (LBC), an affiliate of SABMiller, to grow sorghum for use in locally-brewed beer.



SABMiller is sourcing sorghum in several African countries

The sorghum will be grown from seed developed at the University of Pretoria in South Africa specifically for Lesotho's cool, dry climate. Until now, LBC has exclusively used barley malt imported from Europe to brew beer.

Mr. Ntahli Matete, LBC's Director of Corporate Affairs, said producing raw materials for beer in Lesotho will cut costs dramatically and help farmers secure a market for their produce.

In the pilot phase of the project, farmers will plant sorghum on eight hectares of land for the 2010 harvest. LBC is hoping to expand the project if this early trial is successful.

SABMiller, the second largest brewer in the world, makes beer in 15 sub-Saharan African countries. Last year it began to source ingredients for cheaper beers made from domestic crops like sorghum and cassava in Africa.

Securing African ingredients could allow SABMiller to slash the price of locally-produced beer by 30%, according to Mr. Mark Bowman, who heads the company's African unit. He added that surging commodity prices over recent years had in part prompted SABMiller to pursue local sourcing for its beers.

NATURAL RESOURCES

LESOTHO TO EXPAND SAFE WATER SUPPLY

The Government of Lesotho has launched a project to significantly increase the supply of safe drinking water to people living in the capital, Maseru, and adjoining areas.

While over 80% of the country's citizens already have access to safe water, rising industrial demand, rapid population growth and periodic droughts have all pointed to the urgent need for Lesotho to increase its water security, particularly in areas with greater population density.

"The Government of Lesotho is committed to meeting the challenge of water security as an essential element of our sustainable development strategy," said Dr. Timothy Thahane, Minister of Finance and Development Planning. "Providing a reliable water supply to our industries, which account for about 40% of the gross domestic product, will help us to secure economic growth."

In October, the government signed a \$25-million financ-

ing agreement with the World Bank for the project, which will provide 75,000 cubic meters of additional treated water per day to the Maseru urban area. When it is completed in 2013, water supply coverage in Maseru is expected to reach 90%, and sanitation coverage is expected to increase from 15% in Maseru and 6% in adjoining areas, to 20% and 10% respectively.

The upgrade will support the Lesotho Water and Sewerage Authority's efforts to improve water supplies and upgrade sewage coverage in the capital as well as in other fast-growing urban centers such as Mazenod, Morija, Roma and Teyateyaneng.

The project, which is part of the larger, \$284-million Metolong Dam and Water Supply Program, will be led by Lesotho's Metolong Authority. Other financing is being provided by the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Arab Bank of Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the Kuwait Fund, the OPEC Fund for International Development and the Saudi Fund for Development.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

RURAL HOMES TO GAIN ACCESS TO SOLAR POWER

More than 350 rural households in the Mokhotlong district will gain access to solar power in 2010 as part of the Lesotho Renewable Energy Based Rural Electrification (LREBRE) program.

The solar power systems, already installed in 222 rural households, are mainly used for lighting, radio and television usage, as well as for charging cell phones.

Funded by the Government of Lesotho and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the solar systems provide an inexpensive sustainable power source in rural areas that are off the traditional power grid.

Ms. Palesa Motleleng, Training and Communication Specialist in Lesotho's Department of Energy, said the aim of the LREBRE program is to improve the quality of life in rural areas and support the government's economic development goals by facilitating job creation and income-generating activities in some of the country's most remote districts.

In addition, the program reduces Lesotho's energy-related carbon dioxide emissions by promoting renewable energy technologies as a substitute for fossil fuels in rural areas.

Since its inception in 2006, the program has fueled the growth of a solar power industry in Lesotho and has provided training and support for installers and special financing and courses for solar dealers wishing to expand their entrepreneurial capacity.



Easily-installed solar systems are transforming the lives of Lesotho's rural citizens.